

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 11095 210521 Z

20

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 EUR-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 DODE-00 IO-03 L-02 RSR-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3473

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 11095

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: DAILY MR 3 SITREP 20 JUNE 1973

FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM AMCONSUL BIEN HOA BEING REPEATED

QUOTE

BIEN HOA 0216

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJ: DAILY MR 3 SITREP - 20 JUNE 1973

1. MR 3 ENJOYED ANOTHER RELATIVELY QUIET DAY, COMPARED TO PERIOD IMMEDIATELY BEFORE " SON OF CEASE- FIRE". DURING 24 HOURS ENDING 0800 JUNE 20 MR 3 G-2 REPORTED 16 INCIDENTS -- NINE ATTACKS BY FIRE (TWO OF 20 ROUNDS OR MORE), FIVE GROUND CONTACTS, AND TWO HARRASSMENTS. RVNAF LOSSES WERE THREE KIA, NINE WIA, ONE M-16 LOST, WHILE KNOWN COMMUNIST LOSSES WERE THREE KIA AND THREE AK-47 S CAPTURED.

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PAGE 02 SAIGON 11095 210521 Z

WM IN CONTINUATION OF PREVIOUS DAY'S ACTIVITY IN HIEU THIEN DISTRICT, TAY NINH, COMMUNISTS SHELLED 71 ROUNDS OF MIXED 61 MM, RR, AND B40 INTO LOCATION OF 312 RF COMPANY 5 KMS NE OF DISTRICT SEAT, BUT CAUSED NO RVNAF CASUALTIES. OTHER LARGE ATTACK BY FIRE WAS 20 ROUNDS 61 MM INTO LOCATION OF 356 TH RF COMPANY 10 KMS S OF DAT DO DISTRICT SEAT, PHUOC TUY. THERE WERE FOUR INCIDENTS IN TRANG BANG DISTRICT OF HAU NGHIA, FOUR IN PHUOC TUY, TWO EACH IN TAY NINH, LONG KHANH, AND BINH TUY; AND ONE EACH IN GIA DINH AND PHUOC LONG.

3. ICCS HELICOPTER FLIGHT FROM AN LOC, STALLED UP THERE SINCE JUNE 17 AWAITING STRONG PRG SECURITY GUARANTEES TO AVOID REPE- TITION OF SHOOTING INCIDENT (SEE OUR JUNE 18 SITREP), RETURNED TO BIEN HOA LATE AFTERNOON JUNE 19, WITH ICCS V CANDEL AND HUNGDEL CHIEFS, CBS CAMERA CREW, ALL INDONESIANS IN AN LOC (WHO WERE PULLING OUT OF SITE IN ACCORDANCE WITH OLD ORDERS FROM SAIGON, NOT YET REVIEWED IN LIGHT OF COMMUNIQUE), AND ROTATION OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF OTHER DELEGATIONS.

4. CANDEL AN LOC CHIEF WAS AMONG THOSE WITHDRAWN, AFTER WHAT SEEMED LIKE TEN YEAR STAY THERE SINCE APRIL 2. AT OUR CLUB LAST NIGHT, BETWEEN ENORMOUS BITES OF OUR EXCELLENT ORIENTAL CUISINE WHICH WAS A WELCOME CHANGE FROM PA& E' S MEDIOCRE AMERICAN FARE, HE REVEALED THAT AN LOC HAD BEEN A BORE. YOU COULD DO THE TOWN IN ONLY A FEW HOURS. LACK OF COMPANIONSHIP, PARTICULARLY FEMALE, WAS PROFOUNDLY DEPRESSING. THERE WAS NOTHING TO DO AT NIGHT BUT COUNT OUTGOING ARTILLERY, EXCEPT THAT FOR VARIETY YOU COULD COUNT INCOMING. DURING PAST FEW DAYS, HOWEVER, AN LOC HAS BEEN REMARKABLY, ALMOST EERILY, QUIET.

5. DESPITE SUCCESSFUL RETURN OF HELICOPTERS FROM AN LOC -- ALTHOUGH A CANDEL SAID PILOT HAD PICKED UP ELECTRONIC INDICA- TIONS THAT THEY WERE FIRED ON AGAIN, AT ABOUT THE SAME LOCATION AS THE JUNE 16 INCIDENT -- ORIGINAL ICCS PLANS TO START REGULAR SHUTTLE SERVICE TO AN LOC, AND TO RECCE XA MAT PRIOR TO DEPLOYMENT OF TEAM THERE, HAVE BEEN PUT OFF PENDING FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS ON SECURITY GUARANTEES WITH PRG.

6. AN INDODEL COMMENTED PHILOSOPHICALLY TO CONSULS AT LUNCH JUNE 19 THAT HE DISAGREED WITH " PESSIMISTIC" ASSESSMENT OF HIS COMPATRIOT (SEE OUR JUNE 18 SITREP) OF PROSPECTS FOR PEACE IN SVN.

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PAGE 03 SAIGON 11095 210521 Z

" PROSPECTS FOR VIET- NAM ARE NOT SO BRIGHT, BUT NOT SO DIM EITHER." NUMBER OF MILITARY CLASHES HAS DECLINED, EVEN IF REAL PEACE AND POLITICAL SOLUTION SEEM REMOTE.

7. INDODEL CONFIRMED THAT VIRTUALLY ALL INDODELS WILL BE RE- PLACED IN JULY AND AUGUST BY NEW TRANCHE NOW IN TRAINING IN DJAKARTA. TRAINING INCLUDES LESSONS LEARNED FROM PRESENT INDODEL

EXPERIENCE WITH POLGARIAN OBSTRUCTIONISM, AND DELEGATION WILL INCLUDE SOME " INTERPRETERS" FROM FOREIGN SERVICE AS WELL AS MILITARY OFFICERS.

8. INDODEL EXPRESSED EXTREME FRUSTRATION WITH POLGARIAN OBSTRUCTIONISM, WHICH HE SAID WAS WIDELY SHARED BY HIS COMPATRIOTS. HE ATTRIBUTED SUICIDE OF ONE INDODEL SEVERAL WEEKS AGO IN PART TO DEPRESSION CAUSED BY THIS FRUSTRATION, AND HE SAID HE HAD HAD TO GO OUT RECENTLY TO CONFORT COMPATRIOT AT CU CHI TEM SITE, WHERE RELATIONS ARE ESPECIALLY BAD. INDODEL SAID POLGARIANS ARE DECENT MEN, BUT ONE HAS ADMITTED TO HIM, WHILE DRINKING HEAVILY, THAT THEY HAVE INSTRUCTIONS FROM SAIGON TO " SAY NO" TO ANY CONDEMNATION OF PRG VIOLATION, AND WHEN THEY ENTER CONFERENCE ROOM THEY USE ARGUMENTS AND TACTICS OF WHICH, AS MEN AND ARMY OFFICERS, THEY MUST BE ASHAMED. BECAUSE OF THIS INDODEL DESPAIRS OF COMPROMISE WITH THEM. " IF I LOOK AT THIS GLASS OF LIQUID AND SAY IT IS A COKE, WHILE THEY SAY IT IS A BEER, WE CAN TALK. BUT IF THEY SAY IT IS A CAR, WHAT CAN WE DO?" BECAUSE OF OBSTRUCTIONISM, INVESTIGATIONS ARE COMPLETELY FUTILE, WITH RESULTS PREDICTABLE. NORMALLY A CHEERFUL AND STABLE MAN, INDODEL ADMITTED TO CONSULS THAT POLGARIANS ARE BEGINNING TO GET TO HIM TOO; HE HAS NOT SLEPT DURING LAST WEEK, AND IS SEEKING TDY IN VUNG TAU OR SAIGON TO REGAIN EMOTIONAL STABILITY.

9. DESPITE GLOOMY IMMEDIATE PROGNOSIS FOR ICCS, INDODEL THOUGHT IT TOO EARLY TO PRONOUNCE IT A FAILURE. IT WILL TAKE AT LEAST A YEAR OR TWO TO DETERMINE THAT, AND MEANWHILE INDONESIANS WILL REMAIN IN ICCS BECAUSE IT IS IN THEIR NATIONAL INTEREST TO DO SO, AND CONTINUE TO URGE THAT ICCS BE OBJECTIVE AND ACTIVIST. LIKE POLGARIANS AND MANY VIETNAMESE, INDODEL WAS CONVINCED THAT CANADIANS TOO WOULD REMAIN, AND THAT THEIR WITHDRAWAL STATEMENT HAD BEEN PLOY TO PRESSURE PARTIES AND POLGARIANS TO ACCEPT THEIR CONCEPT OF ICCS OPERATIONS.

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PAGE 04 SAIGON 11095 210521 Z

QPM IN LAM SON, NEAR PHU CUONG, BINH DUONG PROVINCE, BEN CAT ICCS CANDEL TOLD ARRO THAT PROVINCE CHIEF COL. TRAN VAN CUA IS GIVING ICCS CANDEL SAME FREEZE HE HAS BEEN GIVING LATELY TO AMERICANS. RELATIONS CHILLED SOMEWHAT WHEN CANADIANS ANNOUNCED WITHDRAWAL FROM ICCS, AND HAVE BECOME COLDER SINCE PUBLICATION OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE. WALKINSHAW UNQUOTE
WHITHEHOUSE

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